

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Hager's Mill Bridge				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Antietam Creek and Mt. Aetna Road (Memorial Boulevard)				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Board of County Commissioners of Washington County				
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered > 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hager's Mill Bridge carries Memorial Boulevard or Mt. Aetna Road across the Antietam Creek in southeastern Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland.

The two-arched structure is constructed of coursed local limestone and is said to have been built by John Weaver in 1848. The pair of segmental arches are lined with carefully cut radiating voussoirs and are supported by a pier with a rounded projection at its upstream face and a flattened pyramidal projection at its downstream elevation.

The original stone bridge was extensively altered in 1909 when a concrete extension was added to its east abutment to span additional water from a dam which was built by the Hagerstown power plant just downstream from the bridge. In addition to extending the bridge to nearly double its length, other alterations include the replacement or coating of parts of its walls with concrete and the addition of concrete soffits over the original stones of the arches. With the construction of the dam just south of the bridge, the depth of the water has been permanently increased, making the bridge appear to have been set low in the water. A tablet set in the south wall of the concrete section of the bridge indicates that the extension of the bridge and the alterations were executed in 1909 by the Nelson Company of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

The stone bridge appears to be in fair condition and is open to daily traffic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hager's Mill Bridge is significant for its architecture, for its contribution to commerce and transportation in the area and as reflecting the engineering skills of its builder.

Although the bridge has been extensively altered, it retains architectural importance as one of nearly thirty stone arched bridges and culverts in Washington County. Most of these structures were built between 1820 and 1850, and appear to reflect a major trend in building with stone in the Cumberland Valley during the first half of the 19th century.

The Hager Mill Bridge is also significant for its contribution to commerce and transportation in Washington County. Like many of the County's stone bridges, it was built near the site of a mill. Milling was a major industry in early Washington County. Mills were established at an early date to process wood and grain grown by the settlers. They were important early trade centers and gathering places for residents of their vicinities. The Hager Mill was known earlier as Stull's Mill which was established, according to historians, as early as the 1730's. The Hager family bought the mill in the late 18th century. Although the bridge was built well after the mill was established, it nevertheless served to facilitate transportation to and from the mill and thus contributed to growth and commerce in the area. In addition, the bridge made Hagerstown, the largest community in Washington County, more accessible to travelers from the southeast and east.

Finally, the bridge is significant as representing the engineering capabilities of its builder, said to have been John Weaver. Although it has been altered, and must because of the downstream dam accommodate a greater volume of water, Hager Mill Bridge which is open to heavy daily traffic remains as a monument to the skill of its builder. John Weaver was responsible for several bridges in the county. Other bridge builders were George Weaver, Silas Harry, Charles Wilson and the Lloyds, a Pennsylvania firm.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, exhibition catalog, "Bridges: Our Legacy in Stone," Hagerstown, Md.: August-September, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey	DATE May, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

1. STATE **Maryland**
 COUNTY **Washington**
 TOWN _____ VICINITY _____
 STREET NO. _____

ORIGINAL OWNER _____
 ORIGINAL USE _____
 PRESENT OWNER _____
 PRESENT USE _____
 WALL CONSTRUCTION _____
 NO. OF STORIES _____

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY **WA-VI-6**

2. NAME **Hager's Mill Bridge**

DATE OR PERIOD _____
 STYLE _____
 ARCHITECT _____
 BUILDER _____

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____

4. NOTABLE FEATURES



20 HAGER'S MILL BRIDGE, *over Antietam Creek, in Hagerstown*

This two-arch span possibly was John Weaver's final bridge in Washington County. Economy is believed to have dictated the design of this unusually narrow, shallow-arched structure—a far cry from the three-archer that Weaver undoubtedly envisioned for this historic spot, site of the first mill established in the county, in 1738, by John Stull. Had Weaver been able to erect a bridge similar in design to the one at Rose's Mill, for instance, later extension of the bridge with two concrete arches would not have been necessary. And the only stone bridge within Hagerstown's city limits would have been a picturesque landmark today, instead of a garish example of the incompatibility of two eras. Hager's Mill Bridge traces its name to Jonathan Hager—the Miller (not to be confused with the founder of Hagerstown), who acquired the mill property from the Stull family late in the 18th century.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION

Copied from **BRIDGES: OUR LEGACY IN STONE**
 Pamphlet, August, Sept. 1965
 Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
 (on file at Maryland Historical Trust)



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

ATTACHMENT

~~WA-I-436~~
~~WA-HAG-14~~

Hager's Mill Bridge (over
Antietam Creek)
Hagerstown Historical Sites
Survey Map, Ron Andrews, 1977

WA-HAG-84

WA-HAG-85

WA-HAG-10

WA-HAG-86

~~WA-I-436~~
~~WA-HAG-14~~

